APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/781,496	02/12/2001	Toshiyuki Arai	7217/63764	6798

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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2157	

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09/10/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/781,496	ARAI, TOSHIYUKI
	Examiner	**Art Unit**	
	Barbara N. Burgess	2157	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *15 June 2007*.

2a)☒ This action is **FINAL.**   2b)☐ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-8,20 and 22-28* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-8,20 and 22-28* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to Amendment filed June 15, 2007. Claims 9-19, 21

have been cancelled by Applicant. Claims 1-8, 20, 22-28 are presented for further

examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2.   Claims 1-8, 20, 22-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable

over Klug et al. (hereinafter "Klug", US 6,823,327 B1) in view of Bezos et al. (hereinafter

"Bezos", US Patent 6,029,141).

As per claim 1, Klug discloses an information processing apparatus terminal device,

said information processing apparatus capable of transmitting information comprising:

- receiving means for receiving, after the terminal device has accessed said

  information processing apparatus, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain

  information by which the terminal device may access an apparatus that is external to

  said information processing apparatus (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41);

- user identifier generating means for generating identifier corresponding to the

  terminal device in response to request signal (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);

- Generation source identifier storage means storing a generation source identifier said information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);

- Transmitting means for transmitting the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the terminal device to enable the terminal device to request access to the external apparatus by sending the user identifier to the external apparatus and to enable the external apparatus to use the generation source identifier to identify said information processing apparatus as the generation source of the user identifier (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41, column 11, lines 8-13, 43-50).

Klug does not explicitly disclose:

- A generation source identifier assigned to said information processing apparatus by the external apparatus.

However, in an analogous art, Bezos teaches a system that enables businesses (associates) to market products in return for a commission that are sold from a merchant's web site. The associate grants the merchant a unique associate ID. This ID is used when linking to the associate's website (Abstract, column 16, lines 64-67, column 17, lines 5, 10-13).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Bezos's assigning a source identifier by the external apparatus in Klug's apparatus allowing the task of marketing the merchant's products to be efficiently distributed among entities that have established reputations and exposure.

As per claim 2, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according claim 1, wherein the request signal received by said receiving means is a request for the information processing apparatus to issue a user password, the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier (column 2, lines 13-31).

As per claim 3, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according claim 2, wherein said receiving means includes means for receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device (column 1, lines 47-60).

As per claim 4, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the user password and the introduction password used for accessing homepage information contained within the external apparatus, identifies the homepage information the information processing apparatus to the external apparatus (column 2, lines 5-25, column 4, lines 24-33, column 5, lines 1-7, 18-25).

As per claim 5, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 3, further comprising individual information storage means for storing the received individual information (column 5, lines 14-17, 29-31, 35-38).

As per claim 6, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 5, wherein said user identifier generating means generates the user password in association with the received individual information, and then transfers the user password to the individual information storage means which stores the user password in association with the individual information (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41, column 11, lines 8-13, 43-50).

As per claim 7, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according claim 1, wherein the generation source identifier stored by said generation identifier storage means identifies homepage information (column 5, lines 14-17, 29-31, 35-38).

As per claim 8, Klug discloses the information processing apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the generation service identifier storage means stores an introduction password as the generation source (.column 5, lines 14-17, 29-31, 35-38).

As per claim 20, Klug discloses an information processing method comprising the steps of:

- Receiving, at a first information processing apparatus after the first information processing apparatus is accessed by a terminal device, a request signal from the terminal device to obtain information by which the terminal device may access another apparatus that is external to the first information processing apparatus (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41);

- Generating, at the first information processing apparatus, a user identifier corresponding to the terminal device in response to the request signal (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);

- Storing, at the first information processing apparatus, a generation source identifier identifiying the first information processing apparatus as generation source of the user identifier (column 2, lines 13-15, 41-45);

- Transmitting, from the first information processing apparatus to the terminal device, the user identifier and the generation source identifier to enable the terminal device, to request access to the external apparatus by sending the user identifier and the generation source identifier to the external apparatus and to enable the external apparatus to use the generation source identifier to identify the first information processing apparatus as the generation source of the user identifier (column 2, lines 7-10, 37-41, column 9, lines 45-67, column 11, lines 8-13, 43-50).

Klug does not explicitly disclose:

- A generation source identifier assigned to said information processing apparatus by the external apparatus.

However, in an analogous art, Bezos teaches a system that enables businesses (associates) to market products in return for a commission that are sold from a merchant's web site. The associate grants the merchant a unique associate ID. This ID is used when linking to the associate's website (Abstract, column 16, lines 64-67, column 17, lines 5, 10-13).

Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would have found it obvious to implement or incorporate Bezos's assigning a source identifier by the external apparatus in Klug's apparatus allowing the task of marketing the merchant's products to be efficiently distributed among entities that have established reputations and exposure.

As per claim 22, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 20, wherein the request from the terminal device is a request to issue a user password identifying a user operating the terminal device and to issue an introduction password, the user password being the user identifier and the introduction password being the generation source identifier (column 2, lines 5-30).

As per claim 23, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 22, wherein said receiving step includes receiving individual information of the user operating the terminal device (column 4, lines 20-30).

As per claim 24, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim 23, wherein the user password and the introduction password are used for accessing homepage information contained within the external apparatus, and the introduction password identifies the homepage information of the information processing apparatus to the external apparatus (column 10, 10-35).

As per claim 25, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim

23, further comprising:

storing the received individual information (column 8, lines 40-55).

As per claim 26, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim

25, wherein said generating step includes generating the user password in association

with the received individual information and storing the user password in association

with the individual information (column 4, lines 30-60).

As per claim 27, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim

20, wherein the stored generation source identifier identifies homepage information

(column 5, lines 23-40).

As per claim 28, Klug discloses the information processing method according to claim

27, wherein an introduction password is stored as the generation source identifier

(column 6, lines 5-37).

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments with respect to claim have been considered but are moot

in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

4.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Barbara N. Burgess whose telephone number is (571) 272-3996. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00am-4:00pm).
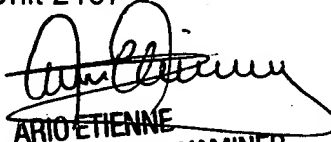
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ario Ettinene can be reached on (571) 272-4001. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

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you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Barbara N Burgess
Examiner
Art Unit 2157

September 3, 2007

ARIO ETIENNE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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